Tsukiyo no Toratsugumi

by Kasai Sui

Chapter 6.1

The End
TheEndManga.wordpress.com

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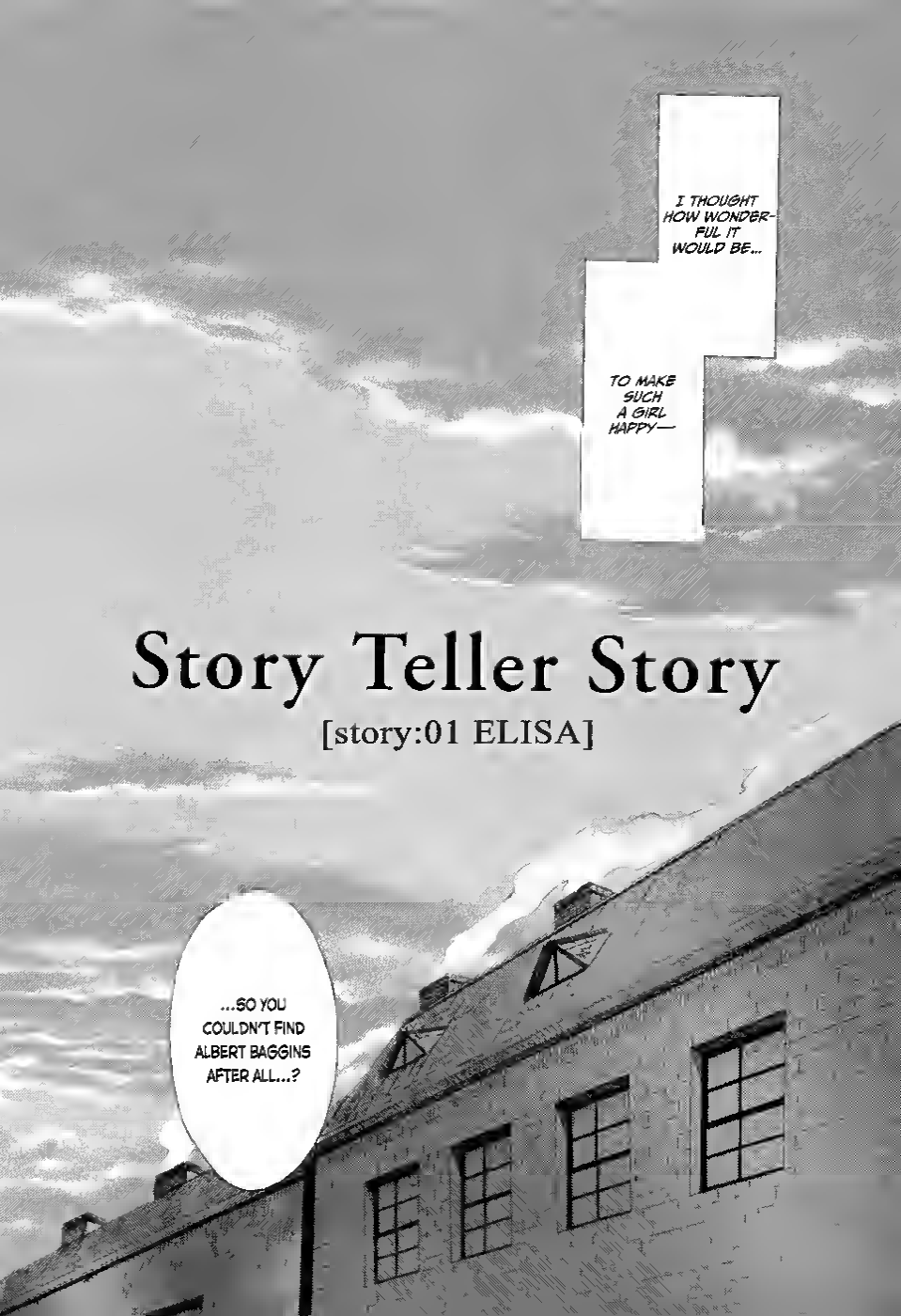
IT'S BEEN ONE YEAR SINCE I MET THE GIRL AT THE COUNTER OF A CHEAP ALL-NIGHT RESTAURANT.
I WAS LATE FOR OUR APPOINTMENT, SO...
MY FRIEND, ALBERT, WAS ALREADY DRUNK AND MAKING ADVANCES ON THE GIRL SITTING NEXT TO HIM.
YO, RICK, YOU FINALLY GOT HERE.
THE GIRL LOOKED AT ME AND SMILED SHYLY.
I THOUGHT TO MYSELF...
THAT I'D NEVER MET SUCH A CUTE GIRL BEFORE.
—SUCH A CUTE GIRL.



Story Teller Story

[story:01 ELISA]

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU GIVE UP, CEDRIC?
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU...
.....
Fu
THAT GUY PROBABLY WON'T COME BACK HERE.
HE SEDUCED A WOMAN, CHEATED HER OUT OF HER MONEY, AND THEN RAN OFF WITH ANOTHER WENCH.
...ELISA IS A PITIFUL WOMAN, BUT SHE'LL GRADUALLY GET HER SPIRITS UP AGAIN, WON'T SHE?
splash
IT'S STOPPED RAINING, SO I'D BETTER MOVE ON.
WON'T YOU JOIN ME TONIGHT?
...ERM, SORRY.

TSK, LATELY YOU NEVER COME TO THE PUB.
I don't know what else to do
I'M REALLY SORRY JACK, PLEASE GIVE EVERYONE MY REGARDS.
FINE. SEE YOU LATER, THEN.
YEAH.
ALBERT!

YOU'RE LATE, I ALMOST THOUGHT THAT YOU'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME.
I'M SORRY.
I'M COMING OOWN, SO WAIT AT THE BACK DOOR AS USUAL.
ELISA.
.....
CHING CHING
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ELISA, SHE SHOULD BE DOWN SOON.
...OH, IT'S YOU AGAIN.
CREAK

REALLY, IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU STOPPED THIS CHARADE.
STILL, SHE'S STOPPED CALLING ALL THE BROWN-EYED BOYS "AL, AL", SO I CAN'T SAY THAT I'M NOT GRATEFUL...
ALBERT!
tap tap
SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
LET'S GO!
...YEAH.
Ching Ching
.....

IT'S GOOD THAT IT STOPPED RAINING.
THE BREEZE FEELS GOOD.
...THAT'S TRUE.

WHOOSH
rustle
!
KYAH!

AL! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH.
rustle
WHAT THE-?
THIS IS...
WELL-MEANING ADVICE ON TELLING LIES.
—STORY TELLER ED HUGHES XX STREET XX NUMBER XXX.

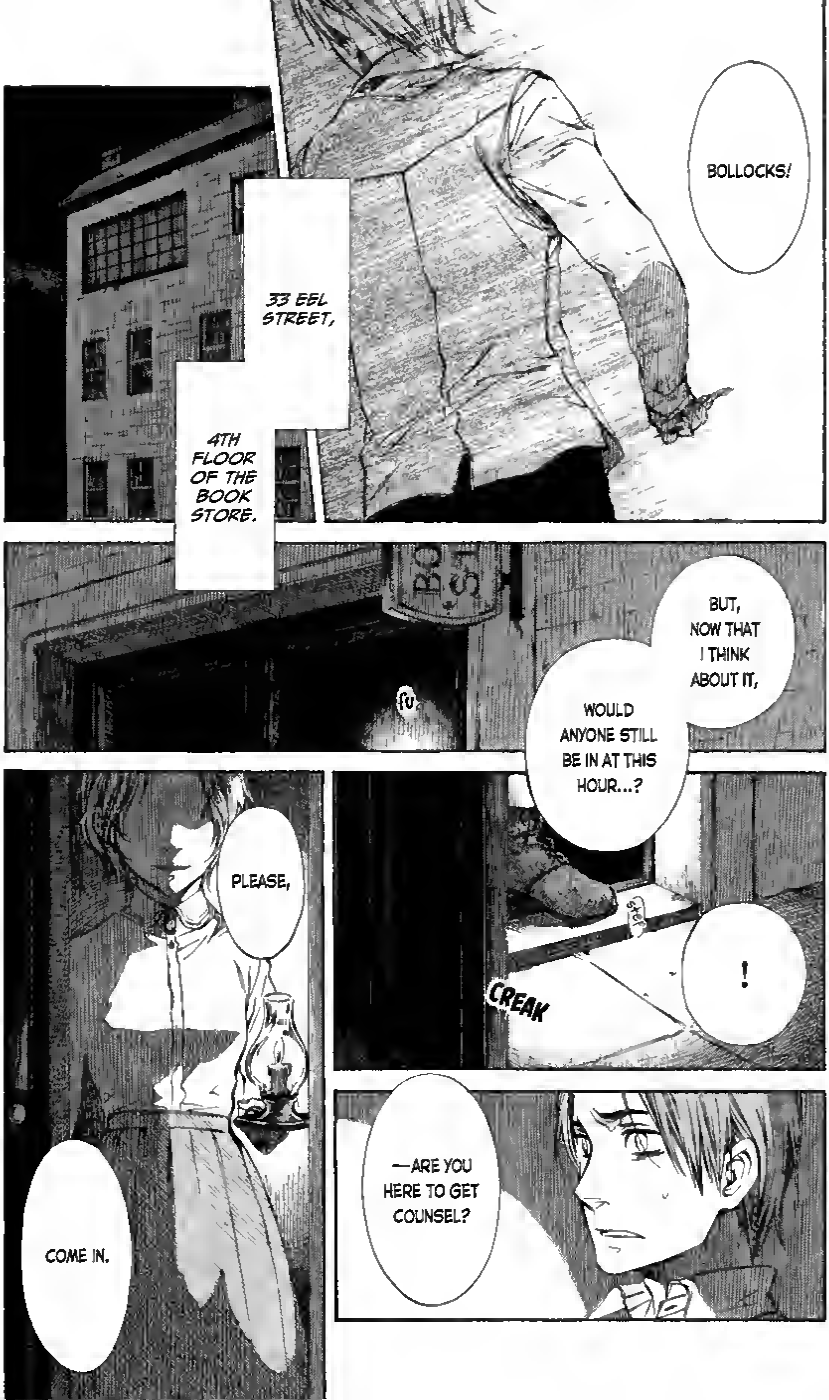
WHAT? WHAT'S WRITTEN ON IT?
AH, NO...
TELLING LIES, EVEN THOUGH EVERYONE WOULD BE BETTER OFF DEAD.
.....
HEH.
WHAT A PECULIAR AD.
rip
HURRY.
LET'S GO HOME,
ALBERT.

...YEAH,
THAT'S RIGHT.
SHAAA
LET'S GO HOME.
CAN YOU KEEP ME COMPANY ALL DAY TODAY?
THAT WON'T BE EASY, BUT I'LL TRY...
.....

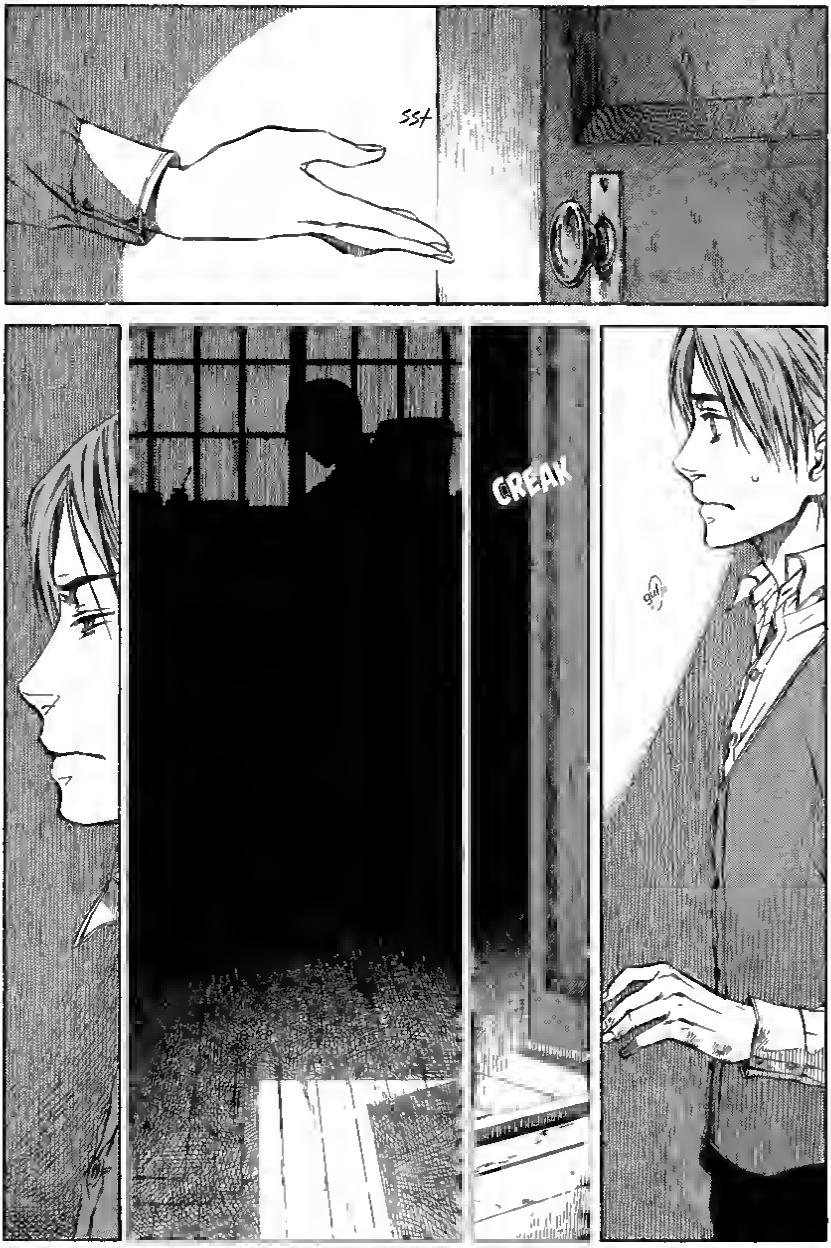
AL.
HOLD ME TIGHT.
ALBERT, I LOVE YOU...
I CAN KEEP GOING ONLY BECAUSE YOU'RE WITH ME
...PLEASE,
DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE...

IT'S A LIE.
CREAK
AL?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
...I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF SOME URGENT MATTERS.
I'LL BE BACK IN THE EVENING.
IT'S A LIE.
...RIGHT.
IT'S A LIE.
HAVE A NICE DAY.
BE CAREFUL.

ED HUGHES...
...PROBABLY AN ALIAS.
.....
...WHAT AM I...
WHAT AM I DOING?
CRAWLING AROUND, LOOKING FOR...
SCRAPS OF PAPER AT THIS HOUR...
.....


BOLLOCKS!
33 EEL STREET,
4TH FLOOR OF THE BOOK STORE.
BUT, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
WOULD ANYONE STILL BE IN AT THIS HOUR...?
CREAK
!
—ARE YOU HERE TO GET COUNSEL?
PLEASE,
COME IN.

PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP.
ARE YOU RELATED TO MR ED HUGHES...?
NO.
I'M JUST A GUIDE.
knock knock
ED... IT'S SELTZ.
I'VE BROUGHT A CUSTOMER WITH ME.

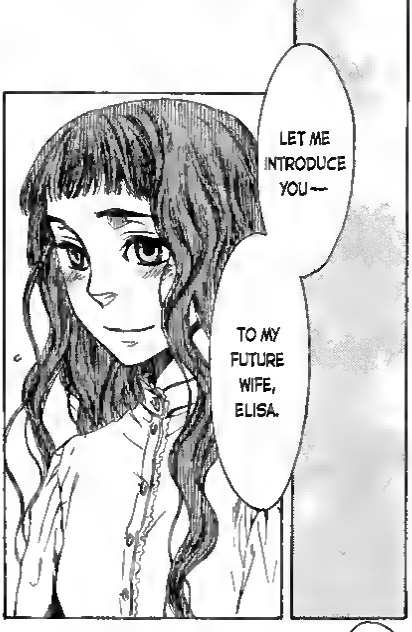

SSH
CREAK

YES,
EXCUSE THE DARKNESS.
CLINK
IT'S FOR THE CREATURES LURED OUT BY THE MOON.
glov
!?
I AM ED HUGHES,
NICE TO MEET YOU.
THE STORY TELLER.

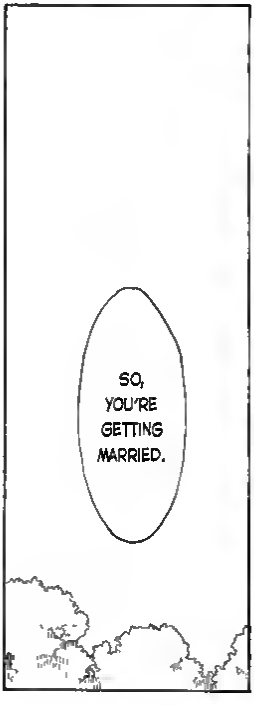
DO YOU DISLIKE MAGIC TRICKS?
PLEASE, TAKE A SEAT.
MAY I ASK FOR YOUR NAME?
...YES.
...AH, NO.
MR ROWE.
.....
I AM...
...MY NAME IS CEDRIC ROWE.

I AM DECEIVING THE PERSON I HOLD DEAREST.
HEY, JACK, RICK, LISTEN TO THIS.
REMEMBER THE GIRL I MADE A PASS AT IN THIS AREA?
YOU ARE PRETTY DRUNK, MAYBE YOU WERE HALLUCI NATING.
...ARE YOU SURE IT WAS HER?
YOU TWO ARE JUST JEALOUS. ANYWAY,
DO YOU KNOW WHY I'M ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN?
BECAUSE I BOUGHT HER.
RIGHT, RIGHT.
YEAH, THE ONE WITH BLACK HAIR.
GUESS WHAT?
I FOUND HER IN THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT.

...YOU'RE SO INNOCENT RICKY.
IF SHE DOESN'T GET BOUGHT, SHE'LL BE OUT IN THE GUTTER. OR AM I WRONG?
grin
OH, WHAT A GOOD REACTION, RICKY.
ALBERT, YOU...
RATTLE
...OF COURSE.
ISN'T SHE 17?
Hey, Ricky, don't yell
YOU BOUGHT THAT GIRL?! SHE'S STILL A KID...
DOESN'T SHE HAVE PARENTS OR RELATIVES?
You're too loud
WHY ARE YOU BRINGING THAT UP?!
WHAT'S MORE, DIDN'T YOU FANCY THAT GIRL QUITE A LOT AS WELL?
WASN'T SHE CALLED MARY?
ELISA?
ANYWAY, I'M GOING TO START DATING ELISA.
clatter
THAT'S THE NAME OF THE RUNAWAY GIRL.
Mary is a girl's name, isn't it?
SHE SEEMS LIKE A RUNAWAY; MAYBE HER FAMILY WAS POOR OR MEAN...
YEAH...


LET ME INTRODUCE YOU—
TO MY FUTURE WIFE, ELISA.

SEE YOU LATER— ♡
...UGH!!
.....
Unbelievable sis


SO, YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED.

Must an Argentina introduction
NICE TO MEET YOU...
SO, THE GLOOMY GUY WITH THE HAT IS JACK, AND LOOKING ALL SERIOUS NEXT TO HIM IS CEDRIC.

AL WAS ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT A "RICKY", SO I THOUGHT THAT...
YOU WERE A WOMAN...

I'M SORRY.
CEDRIC... AH, COULD IT BE...
RICK...?
YES, THAT'S ME.

I'LL DEFINITELY MAKE HER HAPPY.
Haha
I THOUGHT SO TOO.
I WAS SURE YOU WEREN'T THE MARRYING KIND.
Ooh
look a grey wagtail!
ALBERT!
OH?
WHAT IS IT?
A GREY WAGTAIL?
THERE WAS A GREY WAGTAIL!
—TWO MONTHS AFTER THIS CLEAR DAY...
THAT ONE THERE...?

RUNNING OFF WITH ANOTHER GIRL AND TAKING WITH HIM ALL THE MONEY THAT HE AND ELISA HAD SAVED.
ALBERT BAGGINS VANISHED,
— IS THERE A GIRL CALLED ELISA HERE?
ELISA?
ACTUALLY, SIR, THAT GIRL CANNOT BE USED AT THE MOMENT.
SHE WAS DECEIVED AND ABANDONED BY THE GUY SHE WAS ENGAGED TO, AND THAT DESTROYED HER.
WHEN SHE SEES GUYS WITH BROWN EYES, SHE ALWAYS CALLS THEM "AL" AND CLINGS TO THEM.
ching ching
YOU HAVE BROWN EYES, SIR.
IT'S QUITE A HINDRANCE REALLY...
IT'S FINE.
ching ching

...IT'S FINE.
...AL?
IS THAT YOU ALBERT...?
HAVE YOU COME BACK TO ME...?
—YES...

THAT'S RIGHT, ELISA...
CAN I...
ASK YOU ONE THING, MR ROWE?

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WISH FOR?
.....
.....
ELISA'S HAPPINESS
OR YOUR OWN SATISFACTION?
AND HOW I WANTED TO MAKE HER HAPPY.
—NO MATTER HOW...
.....
...WHEN I...
FIRST MET ELISA,
I THOUGHT ABOUT HOW CUTE SHE WAS...

I'M JUST DOING THE SAME THING AS HIM.
...I...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
NO MATTER WHAT I DO...
.....
YOU HAVE ALREADY STARTED,
AND YOU CANNOT TURN BACK.
SO, YOU WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE.

A GENTLE LIE,
OR A CRUEL FACT?
I WILL CHANGE YOUR FACE AND VOICE INTO THOSE OF YOUR FRIEND.
I WILL EVEN CHANGE YOUR FAMILY REGISTER.
HOWEVER, WHEN YOU GET TIRED OF THE LIES, COME BACK, AND I'LL LISTEN TO YOUR STORY.
SOME-DAY—
IF THAT IS WHAT YOU CHOOSE, THEN I WILL HELP YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN.
A GENTLE... LIE.

I WILL STILL REMEMBER YOU.
WHEN EVERYONE HAS FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE PERSON CALLED CEDRIC ROWE,

BEFORE THE GENTLE LIE...

CONSUMES YOU.

AL!
WELCOME BACK...!
HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR WORK ALREADY?
...YEAH.
I WAS JUST MAKING BREAKFAST.
STAY AND EAT WITH ME!
...ELISA.
I THINK I MADE TOO MUCH.
AH, THERE IS ALSO SOUP.
LOOK,
IT'S THE PUMPKIN SOUP THAT YOU LIKE!
yes
ELISA, I...

ELISA, I AM NOT ALBERT.

SAY AL, SINCE THE WEATHER IS GOOD,
LET'S GO TO THE PARK IN THE AFTERNOON.
IT'S GOTTEN SO CLOUDY...
BUT IT WAS SO CLEAR IN THE MORNING.
IN-DEED...
OH?
ISN'T THAT YOU, CEDRIC?

I...

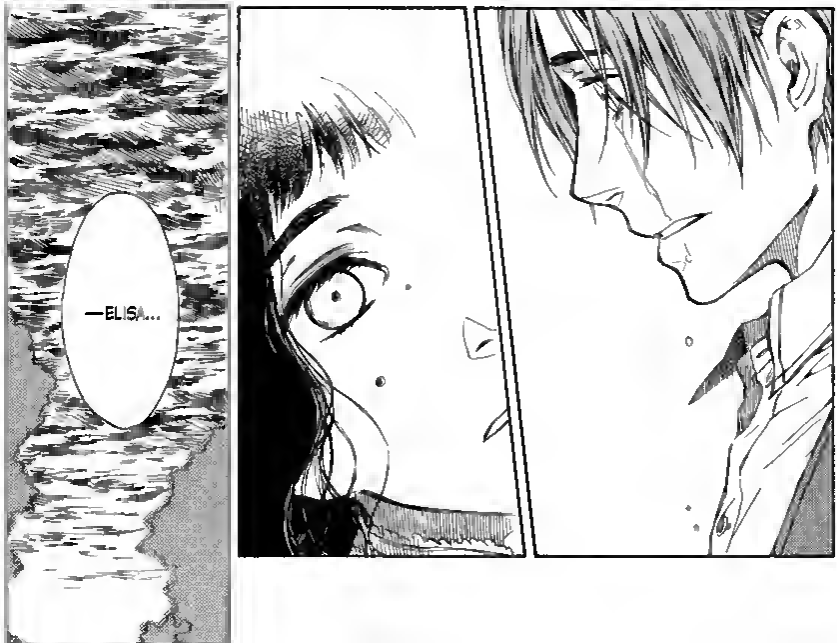
I PROBABLY KNEW...

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
DEEP IN MY HEART, I KNEW THAT, SOMEDAY...
...THIS TIME WOULD COME.
CEDRIC.

...JACK?
WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHY ARE YOU GETTING ANGRY?
—TRY SAYING HIS NAME, ELISA.
...EH?

IT'S ALBERT, RIGHT?
...COMPASSION?
DISGUST-ING.
IS THIS YOUR COMPAS-SION?
CEDRIC.

"IF SHE CAN BE HAPPY, THEN..."



I...
I'M NOT ALBERT.
patter
patter
patter
IT'S ALL RIGHT...

...CRUEL?

WHY IS IT SO...

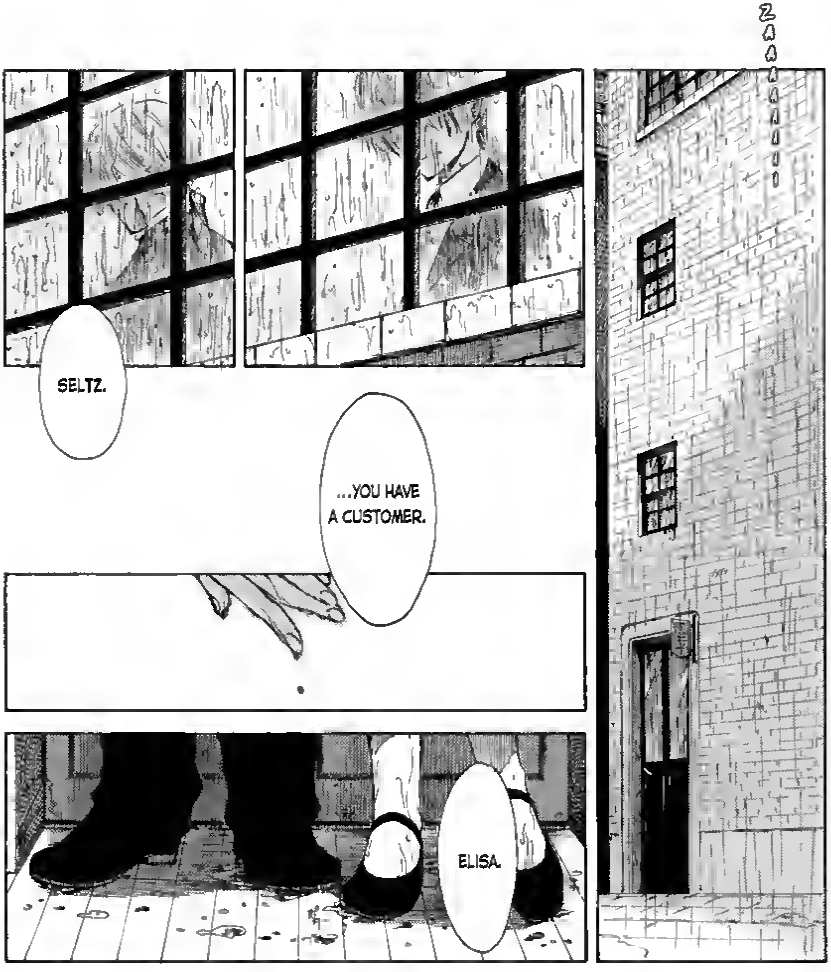
WHY?

WHERE DID I GO WRONG?

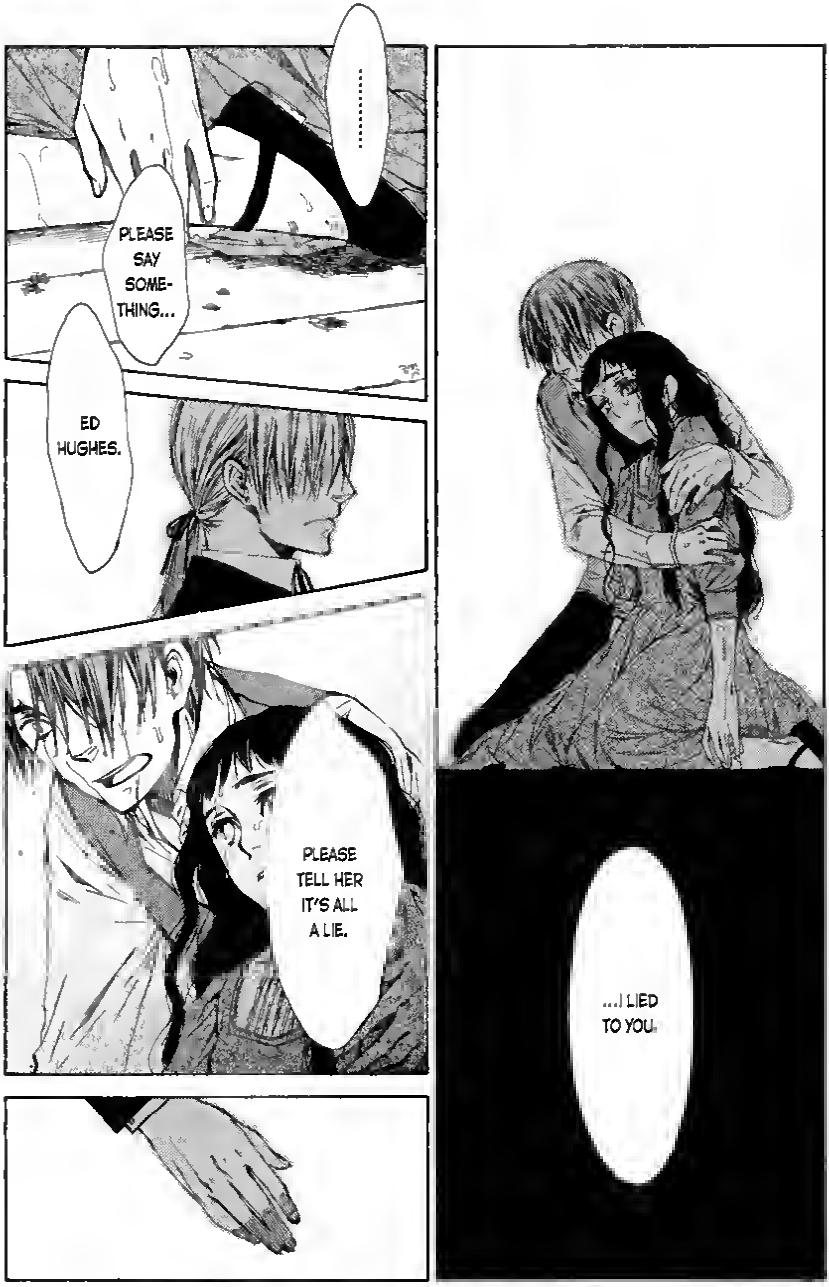
WHO WAS WRONG?

WHAT WAS WRONG?

SO CRUEL—



...
I ASKED THIS PERSON FOR ADVICE.
ABOUT YOU...
TO DECEIVE YOU.
...PLEASE BELIEVE ME.
I BEG YOU...
I...
I'M NOT ALBERT.


.....
PLEASE SAY SOME-THING...
ED HUGHES.
PLEASE TELL HER IT'S ALL A LIE.
...I LIED TO YOU.

caress
...IT'S HEART-BREAKING, ISN'T IT?
AAAAAAAAAA
THE TRUTH IS,
YOU KNEW WHAT WAS "REAL" ALL ALONG, DIDN'T YOU?

...IT'S ENOUGH.
YOU CAN ACCEPT IT.
IT'S ALL RIGHT,
EVEN IF IT'S SO CRUEL.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU REFUSE IT, "REALITY" IS WHAT IT IS, AND YOU CANNOT DENY IT.

.....
...SHE CAN DECIDE TO CURSE YOU.
SHUT
BUT ONLY WITH THE "TRUTH".
OR, SHE CAN FORGIVE YOU.
—MAYBE YOU CAN SAVE HER.

HURRY.
YOU ARE FINALLY FREE.
creak
PLEASE GO.

I WAS WRONG...

ABOUT THAT CHEERFUL, UNRELIABLE GUY,

ABOUT ELISA, AND PROBABLY ABOUT MYSELF AS WELL.

NO MATTER WHICH ROAD I TOOK,

I HELD YOUR HAND...

ON THIS PATH OF THORNS THAT YOU GREW YOURSELF.

AFRAID OF BEING RECOGNISED WHEN WE WERE TOGETHER,

GRASPING AT WHAT YOU'D LOST...

WHILE BLIND TO MY OWN LACK OF POWER...

Naaaaii
YOU'RE WET TO THE SKIN.
...
I LOVE YOU.

I WANTED TO MAKE YOU HAPPY,
BUT...
...THIS ISN'T EASY TO SAY.
I'M SORRY...
...
AIT.
"RICKY"...
...WAIT.